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Merv Rosell

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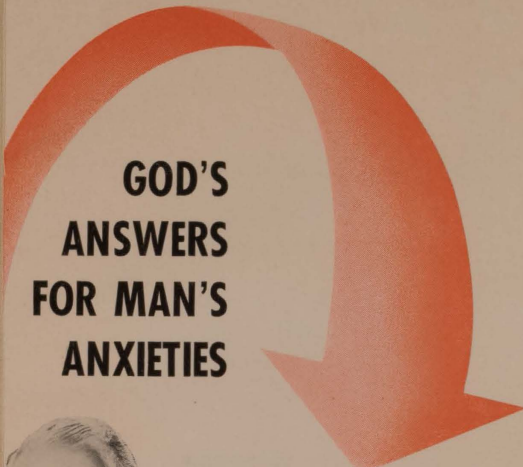


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GOD'S ANSWERS FOR MAN'S ANXIETIES



by Merv Rosell

Well-known evangelist of the American Crusade, Merv Rosell, presents some timely truths concerning common yet difficult problems which face men and women today. As always in his dedicated ministry, Dr. Rosell answers these questions from the infallible Word of God.

Featured on . . .

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GOD'S ANSWERS FOR MAN'S ANXIETIES
by Dr. Mervⁿ₁ ^ERosell

a
series of messages
given over

THE BIBLE INSTITUTE HOUR

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Contents

A Citizen's Faith	5
Home	9
Age	11
Askability	15
Out Of Focus	19
The Sin We're Afraid To Mention: Avarice	21
Why Suffering	24
Unanswered Prayer	27
The National Program—And You	29

A Citizen's Faith

IT TAKES the cumulative force of an overwhelming tragic year in this "nervous century" to prove to man his own futility. Our age is slowly but unmistakably learning man's inadequacy . . . with surprisingly uniform conclusion! There is an irresistible trend toward naked faith in God. Unbelievers are genuinely searching. Ritualists are seeking reality. Christians are testing their anchors and reaffirming their faith. Americans want more than surface stir . . . we look for spiritual dynamic.

The whole world is shot through with the conflict between two major ideologies! Under the conglomerate of words and national terms, CHRISTIANITY and COMMUNISM are the evident enemies.

I stood in the British Museum of London when I first realized the overwhelming clash of these two "ways of life." I had seen the early manuscripts of the Bible a moment before (the Codex Alexandrinus and the Codex Sinaiticus) but I was anxious to see the famed Rosetta Stone (Archaeology's gift to the translators). The Rosetta Stone could not be viewed because it was in a bombed out area of the building.

After some maneuvering I was able to contact the right official. One of those big, gracious London Bobbies (with Yorkshire accent) became my guide and I was lead through the restricted corridors to see the famed stone that had opened those ancient words to us. As we returned via the hushed cathedral-domed library, the officer gently nudged me and said, "Follow me over to a certain desk and chair." With a measure of curiosity I followed. "This is the spot where the Russian Delegations always stand in reverence when they visit London. At this desk Lenin wrote the revolutions!"

Strange contrast! One moment I bend over the Rosetta stone and ancient Bible manuscripts . . . and the next I view the desk of Lenin. One spiritual truth; the other materialism. One faith; the other force. One love; the other hate!

These two driving factors vie to engage the predominating peoples of all of the worlds. Where the balance of power is most equal there the conflict is the greatest. Both ideologies thrive best in difficulty.

Christianity grows and becomes vibrantly vital and militant through days of persecution and suffering. If a nation is thoroughly evangelized with real Christian truth, days of tragedy cannot hurt it.

Communism and its false promise of Utopia thrives best in days of conflict and clash . . . but will die in times of contentment and peace. Therefore her advance agents foment class conflict, strike strategy and mass discontent. Thoughtless dissatisfied people become her comrades.

If we could predict peace and contentment, this conflict could be ignored, but growing clouds of economic, social and financial storms are evident daily. We cannot overlook Satan's bid for the age . . . through rank materialism, sheer force and pseudological manipulations.

Several years ago United States Senator Carlson of Kansas was our guest in a Kansas City Crusade. His speech was so vital to the hour I asked the privilege of quoting him. Said he, "It is imperative that if we are to preserve and save our sacred freedoms we must have a strong, courageous and God-fearing people. We must have a strong militant church and a total mobilization of all the moral forces of the country. Through all American history there runs a golden thread of deep religious conviction. This is a precious gift we must cherish and encourage in the minds and hearts of our people.

"The church must inculcate the principles of Christian living, which will have a compelling force in shaping our government. It seems there must be a continuing crusade for the fundamental principles of Christianity and individual freedom. Any other path is inimical to our American way of life, which is today the light and hope of a troubled world and suffering people everywhere,

"Today we are faced with a great conflict. It is a conflict between Christianity and Paganism. Those rulers who would have you live under a communistic program not only oppose Christianity in all of its benevolent forms and teachings, but would drive it from the face of the earth.

"Now that the lines are drawn, based on these conflicting ideologies, there can be no question as to where we will stand. We must accept our responsibility in order to preserve these great principles."

Our only answer to the militant communism of our age, is vital militant Christianity reaching an increasingly enlarged sphere of thinking people. We must stop playing church and give our key leaders the strong hearts of faith they will soon need to carry on.

People who know the Word of God and are in touch with the Living God are literally obliged to get Christianity's information and inspiration to a cross section of America soon. Touch the pulse of our nation to feel the quickening heartbeat of faith.

Statesmen are sensing the solution. Luther W. Youngdahl, not ashamed of the open Bible on his desk, recently said, "Count me as a firm believer in the family altar. I am thoroughly convinced that a widespread return to the practice of regular worship in the home would work miracles in meeting the many critical problems of modern life . . . It is evident that we are paying a terrible price for the lack of true religious faith . . . Yet Christianity stands ready with the answer to man's problems and doubts just as it has for two thousand years. Too many people today profess Christian faith, but

pay it only lip service and no more . . . It is time that all avowed Christians set an example by practicing a dynamic religious faith in their homes and all phases of daily life."

Thinking newsmen urge men to faith. Commentators, editors, columnists and authors continually emphasize the need for a revitalized faith in our desperate day.

Ahead of us lies the opportunity to immediately and definitely answer our people in the oncoming dilemma . . . providing we are strong, Bible-fed, Spirit-fed Christians.

Christianity today has the ear of the people. If we prove ourselves true to the task, revival may change the trend of our times. If anemic, ritualistic, "churchianity" is all we have to offer, our friends will turn to the isms and the foreign cults. Man is "incurably religious" but the direction of his heart must be pointed to the cross and to Christ for real and eternal salvation.

I have been astonished at the specific comment of our day . . . from a member of the British Parliament:

"Our problem is not social, not economic but SPIRITUAL" . . . from a statistician and analyst of financial trends in business:

"The only hope for our country in the time of coming crisis is an old time revival!"

. . . from a famed sports and news writer:

"When we saw the 'eternal' flame of the Olympics go out, we were reminded again of the only flame which is eternal, Faith in Christ!"

. . . from the respected mayor of a great Pacific city:

"This is the answer to the youth of our city . . . real spiritual awakening."

The general consensus of opinion seems to be: "Give us facts for faith and we will believe with you in the fundamentals of Christianity which are unmistakably bound into the warp and woof of America's Constitution and history!"

Men of all walks of life are awakening to the potential tragedy which befalls any nation whose character fibre is not cemented by real living faith in God and His Christ.

Students of history see the same shadows stalking us that conquered yesterday's empires. Today's trends talk terror to the thinker. Men are today more approachable than ever in view of atomic warfare in the hands of ruthless enemies. God's power alone is large enough to write an answer to the world's imponderables.

We, who implicitly believe the Word of God is the answer, can speak authoritatively to our DAY—To our Statesmen: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

To our Scientists: "... keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith" (1 Timothy 6:20, 21).

To our Research Men: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

To our Thinking News Writers: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life. . . . And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son (1 John 5:13, 11).

To the National Leaders and Political analysts: "From whence come wars and fightings among you . . . even of your lusts . . . ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not because ye ask not. Ye ask . . . and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:1-3).

To the Average Man: "My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth . . . Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid . . . For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved . . . He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life (John 14:27, 3:17, 36).

Finally to the earnest Christian of this twentieth century: "God . . . hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard" (Acts 22:14, 15).

Christianity's day of opportunity is here. We have the ear of the people. Let God speak!

Home

How wonderful it is that each time we open up God's marvelous Book of authority we find His amazing answers for the problems of today. So many people have come to me in recent years and said, "Merv, I have to find an answer for my home, for my heart, for the problems within the walls of my own sanctuary where my children live." Actually, I think everyone is faced with problems of some sort.

The appalling rate of divorce and home-breakage is a commentary on the fact that our nation has never learned the keys to success for any home built on Christ.

I guarantee that any man who shall build his home around the following five keys cannot see it fail, for God abides faithful in answering these keys with the open door of his blessing. Read them carefully. Obey them religiously. Follow them faithfully—and enjoy a happy home.

1. GIVE GOD THE FIRST HOUR OF EACH DAY. (Mark 1:35) Get Bible strength *before* the daily rush. Pray in the MORNING instead of the night!
2. GIVE GOD THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK. (1 Cor. 16:2) The entire Lord's day BELONGS to Him. Serve with your church to save your community.
3. GIVE GOD THE FIRST PORTION OF YOUR INCOME. (Prov. 3:9; 1 Cor. 16:2) The Jewish man under law gave the first tenth. (1 Cor. 9:7)
4. GIVE GOD FIRST CONSIDERATION IN EVERY DECLARATION. (Matt. 6:33) Choice of home; of friends; of work; of church; of school; etc.—all to God's glory.
5. GIVE GOD'S SON FIRST PLACE ALWAYS IN YOUR HEART (II Cor. 8:5) Live, talk, walk, sing, pray, work, play, think, serve always conscious of HIS PRESENCE!

The Bible says, "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:4). FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover has said, "This country is in deadly peril; a creeping rot of moral disintegration is eating into our nation. My only hope for the future is predicated upon belief in God and in the re-establishing of the practice of daily prayer in our homes."

Some parents say, "We will not influence our children in making choices and decisions in matters of religion."

WHY NOT???

The ads will!

The press will!

The radio will!

The T.V. will!

The movies will!

The neighbors will!

The politicians will!

The forces of evil will!

We use our influence over flowers, vegetables, cattle, grass, etc. Shall we ignore our children? May God forgive us if we do!

As father or mother or any significant member of the home, be dead sure that all members of your family are in right relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

At times it is most difficult to break great theological truths down into such simple unmistakable terminology that every one might understand, and yet the Bible fundamentally is that simple and clear. Faith brings us into a relationship with God through Christ who died on the cross for us. Faithfulness (day by day) maintains that fellowship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith places us in the family, and faithfulness brings happiness in that family of faith. Romans 4:5 is an astonishing but wonderful verse, "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." The Bible does not contradict itself. It says in the first place, "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9). This is the doorway into the house of salvation. On the other hand it says, "Faith without works is dead." This is the resultant service of one who is already in that home of faith.

Faith is the root, works, the fruit. Salvation is a present position by faith (John 3:36). Rewards are future attainment by works of faith (I Corinthians 3:11-13). Salvation is an obtainment (actually a gift) and rewards an attainment.

When you with utter abandon realize the great load of your sin and place Christ first in your heart of hearts at the foot of the cross, salvation is instantly yours.

How can we know from father down to the smallest child in the family that each one is actually right with God? I believe that I can make this plain.

1. We turn to the Word of God, to bank upon His promises, and we find our salvation by pure, naked faith in Jesus Christ. Read Romans 10:9, 10. This faith is heart faith and cannot be a mental

ascend merely to historical facts of Jesus Christ. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness."

2. You can know you are a Christian because there is a witness within your heart according to Romans 8:16. It is not an emotional spasmodic experience, but the reality of inner throbbing heart faith in Jesus Christ.

3. You can know instantly your faith is real because you have a reverse relationship to the commercialized sin of our day. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17). A Christian is a man with a changed heart, a changed mind, a changed life, a changed body, changed service, changed family and changed relationship. He is a man that has put Christ in the heart of hearts. It is not "churchianity" but Christianity. The American home needs to turn back to her God—back to a vital, real faith in Jesus Christ.

"How do I know that I am a Christian? How do I know that the Lord is mine?" said the old man on his cane. "WHY, I talked with Him just about an hour ago." The family that prays together, stays together. Be sure every one in your family really knows Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

I speak particularly to fathers when I say, "You will never know how extensive is the influence of your life for or against Jesus Christ."

Nearly a century ago a young girl in New York fell into an evil life; and the county records show the history of her descendants. They were 900 in numbers. Of these, 200 are on the county records as criminals; nine of her own children served an aggregate term in the state prisons of 50 years; a considerable proportion of her descendants were idiots, lunatics, prostitutes, drunkards and paupers. History records a corresponding fact.

Jonathan Edwards was a man whom the Word of God changed from sin to holiness. A record of his descendants is known—out of 1,400 of these, eight have been presidents of American universities; 100 of them professors; 100 of them ministers of the gospel; 60 have been eminent doctors; 30, judges; 25, officers in the Army and Navy; and others, mayors, senators, governors and ambassadors.

"I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (Exod. 20:5, 6).

Age

God's Book of authority, the Bible, is filled with amazing answers to man's problems of today. I received a most delightful poem written by a lady 94 years of age. It is titled: "I Ain't Dead Yet."

*My hair is white and I'm almost blind,
The days of my youth are far behind;
My neck's so stiff, can't turn my head,
Can't hear one half that's being said.*

*My legs are wobbly, can hardly walk,
But glory be, I can surely talk.
And this is the message I want you to get:
I'm still a-kickin' and I ain't dead yet.*

*I've corns on my feet and ingrowing nails—
And do they hurt! Here language fails;
To tell you my troubles would take too long,
If I tried you surely would give me the gong.*

*I go to church and Sunday School too,
For I love the story that is ever new.
And when I reach the end of my row,
I know to my heavenly home I'll go.*

*Then, when I leave my house of clay,
If you listen closely I'm apt to say,
"Well, folks, I've left you, but don't forget,
I've just passed on, but I ain't dead yet!"*

I am convinced that a great number of people with silver in their hair and the sunset in their hearts, realize the truth of these words. It is amazing how God has used mothers through the years. The Bible has promised peace. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). If it had not been for my grandmother's attending a very lovely old church in Minneapolis, taking my mother with her where she heard the true Gospel, I wouldn't have been called to preach to a million people each year for this last decade. I am convinced were it not for the dedication of my mother and grandmother, I would never have had the opportunity to tell the story of Christ's redeeming love. I would never have been able to go to a Bible school had it not been for my godly mother. When my grandfather passed away, he said, "Anna, my wife, will live 15 years after I live. I must leave her money for the years." He prepared for my grandmother. For 15 years she lived carefully, frugally, and saved the money. When God called

her home, in exactly 15 years, she left a portion of those funds to my mother. Mother, in turn, tithed the money to the Bible Institute, allowing me to come in to study the Word of God, and ultimately to preach the Gospel of the story of Christ. To me that is an amazing thing: a raven-haired grandmother who passed away ahead of her time, leaving behind an endowment of millions of people who would be able to hear the Gospel of Christ. Surely thousands of them have been born again as a result. Thus, she being dead, yet speaketh. She gave her life in gratitude to God.

The mother of George Washington taught her son the Biblical standards and ideals of political and social morality. Washington, in turn, kept these precepts before the nation all his life. In his home family prayer was held twice a day along with regular readings from the Bible. This was his mother's gift to the nation; it is blessing us now.

James A. Garfield had a mother who was an earnest Christian. She taught her children that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." A widow with four children, she not only managed her farm but also built, with her own hands, a log house which was used as a church. There she taught her own children, as well as others, the Scriptures. A man was in the White House in Washington as a result of her exemplary kind of a life.

Perhaps you sometimes think that as a silver-haired woman, your life having been lived, there is nothing left for you.

The mother of England's famous William E. Gladstone led her son to faith in God when he was only nine years old. He chose as his life's motto: "All I think, all I write, all I am, is based on the divinity of Jesus Christ, the central hope of our poor wayward race." Oliver Cromwell's mother taught him the simple truths of Scripture. He chose as his favorite verse, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The mother of Dwight L. Moody struggled against poverty. Maybe some of you are going through a similar time of testing today. While Moody's mother struggled against poverty on a New England farm, she taught her son the importance of eternal values. At 17, Moody accepted Christ. A few years later he dedicated his life for service and rocked two continents for God.

The mother of William Penn so impressed him with the importance of faith in Christ that he took as his life text, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Now, as a personal word to you, maybe you are wondering what you're going to do with your life. Open your Bible and read until you come to a promise. Then say, "All right, God, if I can't preach I'll be an intercessor. I'll pray for other men; I'll pray for those women that are on the mission fields." You will be able to say, with that lovely grandmother of 94 years who wrote "I Ain't Dead Yet."

"Even though eternity is just ahead, I'm alive," for Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth on me though he were dead yet shall he live." That "live" is a capital L-I-V-E. Don't be discouraged. Don't turn your way from the way of the cross. You say, "My problems!" I know. "My poverty!" I know. "My age!" I know, I know. But there is always something you can do in service for others and for Christ.

You say, "But you have no idea of the pain, suffering, heartache and disillusionment." Listen, if you have silver in your hair, sunset in your heart, and you don't know which way to look, try looking to the sky. Have you ever seen His face? We read in Acts 22:14 and 15, "God hath chosen thee, that thou shouldst know his will . . . and hear the voice." Yes, you may see His face above all other faces; you may see Christ above the great mobs of violence of our day, above the disillusioning populace of our nation. You may see His face, hear His voice, know His will and be His witness. Live Christ, mother. Live Christ, Dad.

Put your trust in Him and don't let anything discourage you. God will lift you up. "Peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid."

The Illinois Medical Journal recently carried this item in a publication which typifies these thoughts.

"There are two days in every week about which we should not worry—two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

"One of these days is yesterday, with its mistakes and cares, its aches and pains, its faults and blunders. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said.

"The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow, with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and performance. Tomorrow also is beyond our immediate control.

"Tomorrow's sun will rise either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds—but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

"That leaves only one day—today. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities—yesterday and tomorrow—that we are liable to break down."

Your troubles, a thousand of them, and perhaps today, regarding age, can be answered from God's Holy Book, the Bible.

Askability

UNDER the title "Why Men Pray," Life magazine devoted an entire editorial page to remind Americans that the solution to our problems might be found on our knees. Said the editor, "Spurred by reason and fear of today's headlines, large numbers of Americans are rediscovering an old truth: man cannot live by bread alone."

The article swings a malicious cudgel at the materialist who relates prayer to the scrapheap of worn-out traditions, and says the question "Why pray?" has now become "Why not?"

Eloquent Chrysostom from yesterday's wisdom reminds us, "The potency of prayer has subdued the strength of fire. It has bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged disease, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course and arrested the progress of the thunder-bolt.

"Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm; it is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings."

During an impasse at the Constitutional Convention in June 1787, Benjamin Franklin addressed the chairman (George Washington) as follows: "The small progress we have made . . . is, methinks, a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the human understanding . . . I have lived sir, a long time; and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe, that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." Franklin then moved that daily prayers be offered before the Assembly again got down to business.

Because of the inability of man, the responsibility of prayer is great upon the hearts of those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who has a vision of the need of the day will become a man of prayer. Look upon the multitudes rushing on into eternal judgment, see how many in the church have only "name faith" in Jesus Christ, estimate how many never open the old-fashioned Bible and never bend the knee to Christ, consider the average man who seldom thinks of the things of God. Then how can you help but pray!

When General Grant lay dying of cancer, he was visited by an esteemed friend, General Howard. Howard commended Grant on his

great military exploits in preserving the Union, but Grant waved it all aside and (knowing that the piety of Howard was as genuine as his valor) said, "Howard, tell me more about prayer."

A great number of young men and women have asked scores of questions concerning prayer as I have dealt with them personally in various states across the land. Some of them have asked, "If God is willing to answer prayer, why must we continue persistently and beseechingly to pray?"

The Bible urges that we be importunate in our prayer unto God, insisting upon the "bread" that He will give. He wants to know that the heart is earnest in its request and He will grant according to the earnestness of the heart. Bunyan once said, "Better that your heart have no words than that your words have no heart." God is looking for a heart-longing in our lives today. A mere statement, cold, intellectual, is not enough, but a longing desire is pleasing unto God.

Other young people have asked, "If God knows what we need, why tell Him?" We answer: even though a father knows the need of the child, he welcomes the beseeching child. How much more joy there is when the father has the opportunity to give unto the child the desire of the heart. Sometimes the parent cannot force upon the unwilling child that which he needs. When God sees His child believing for an answer, God will provide.

The provision of prayer is at the foot of the cross. The posture of prayer is humility of heart and, if possible, of body. The power of prayer is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the person of prayer is Christ Himself.

I speak particularly now of our faith in relation to prayer. I would like to mention the "askability" of faith (if I might coin the word). I want to say that God expects us to ask. If we will ask, God will answer. All the mighty men of God since the dawn of time who have shaken the kingdoms of darkness have been men of prayer. There is nothing at all that the sinner so much dreads and in which the saints so much delight as to be alone with God. You know prayer transforms mere men into spiritual giants and I am surprised as I read history and read of the "askability" of the men of yesterday and the tremendous answers that God was able to give them.

Look at Baxter who lay upon his knees and stained his study walls with praying breath earnestly seeking God's face until He sent a river of living water over Kidderminster and converted hundreds to Jesus Christ. Luther knelt with his cohorts in mighty pleadings to break the spell of ages and lay nations at the foot of the cross. John Knox knew the "askability" of faith for he stirred all Scotland with his, "Give me Scotland or I die," terrifying tyrants with his praying! And there was Whitfield who, from his prayer closet, went to the fair

and drew more than a thousand in a day out of sin unto the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our responsibility to really pray. God commands it. God explains it. God illustrates it. God prompts it. God expects it. God hears it. And God answers it. Prayer brings peace in adversity, security during danger, joy in trouble and faith in dense darkness.

Tell your troubles to God, and you will soon have joys to tell to people!

Look at the Word of God in I Corinthians 7:5, "Give yourself to prayer"; in Ephesians 6:18, "Praying always"; in Acts 1:14, "They continued in prayer"; and the injunction of Colossians 4:2, "Continue in prayer and watch."

Abraham prayed for mercy on Sodom and God would have spared the city for the sake of ten souls. David asked for blessings on his house. Elisha prayed for a double portion of Elijah's power; Ezekiel for his people; Habakkuk for a national revival; Hannah for the gift of a son; Jeremiah for provision and comfort; Jonah for deliverance from the great fish; Manohar for guidance in training his young son, Samson; Solomon for wisdom.

In the New Testament: the apostles prayed for faith; Bartimaeus for sight; the father of the lunatic for his son's health; Jairus for his little daughter; the centurion for his servants; the lepers for cleansing; the prodigal for forgiveness. Their "askability" of faith always met with the "answerability" of God!

Joshua saw the "answerability" of God when the Jordan held back its waters. Moses saw the "answerability" of God when the Red Sea became dry land for the footsteps of his people. Daniel saw the "answerability" of God when he could decipher the prophecies that only God could explain.

In like measure, the "answerability" of God is our only solution. God alone can meet the need of hungry people who know not the way of truth. The "answerability" of God will be felt in our nation and among our leaders even in the political problems of the day if we, as God's people, will pray. Our nation can be spared in time of war and in time of peace only by the power of God. God has the answer for every need; individual, congregational, national, and worldwide: Revival!

If you are a Christian, pray for personal cleansing for carelessness, callousness and compromise. If you are not genuinely born again, the prayer of simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can bring forth the answer of a mighty God transforming you from a sinner into a saint; out of darkness into His marvelous light; from under the load of sin, unto the joy and peace which comes in His power. Man has the need. God has the answer. Prayer is the means which brings the

two together. By faith we pray. By power He answers. The solution is ours through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Seven little girls who had accepted the Lord Jesus in one of my crusades in South Dakota approached me and asked if I would pray with them for their fourteen unsaved parents. We knelt together by the primary chairs of that Sunday school and poured out our hearts to God. Believe it or not, the simplicity of faith of those tiny girls brought to fruition real salvation in all those families before another week had passed. "Ye have not because ye ask not." God could do the same for your homes and for your families.

Out Of Focus

IN God's Book of authority we can find His amazing answers to every problem of life. Some of you ladies have special recipes you and your family are particularly fond of. But here is something unusual. A special recipe on "How to be Perfectly Miserable":

1. Think about yourself.
2. Talk about yourself.
3. Use "I" as often as possible.
4. Mirror yourself continually in the opinion of others.
5. Listen greedily to what people say about you.
6. Expect to be appreciated.
7. Be suspicious.
8. Be jealous and envious.
9. Be sensitive to slights.
10. Never forgive a criticism.
11. Trust nobody but yourself.
12. Insist on consideration and respect.
13. Demand agreement with your own views on everything.
14. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown them.
15. Never forget a service you may have rendered.
16. Be on the lookout for a good time for yourself.
17. Shirk your duties if you can.
18. Do as little as possible for others.
19. Love yourself supremely.
20. Be selfish.

This recipe is guaranteed to be infallible; follow it, and you will be perfectly miserable. Don't you find it true that often we hate to face up to the fact that we have forgotten God's principles? The Bible clearly says, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). Many have discovered that the more they do for others, the less they worry about themselves.

If you are pouring out your life for those around you, in the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ, then there comes a wonderful peace within your own heart and soul.

Have you forgotten that it says in the Bible, "He that loseth his life for Christ's sake shall find it?" How often I myself need to come back again and again to that truth. Basically, we humans are fundamentally selfish. We are everlastingly thinking about ourselves. Our conversations are filled with ourselves. Our thoughts are filled with self. But the Bible says, "He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it." On the contrary, the one who cries for life and tries to keep it, at the last, despite his vain efforts, shall lose it.

God can solve all of your problems! It can be seen that the answer to "pressure" is prayer.

Among the many businessmen, homemakers and college youth with whom I have counseled there seems to be a genuine desire to plan a pattern of life along Christian principles. I have found, however, that not many spiritual leaders get down to business to talk "shoe-leather" Christianity. I propose to do exactly that and have found it actually works. Mark 1:35 says, "Rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Christ began each day with prayer. Your life must be methodically ordered day by day with a foundation of real prayer and Bible study.

Block off each day and put it—with all of its pressure—into the pattern of your prayer.

THE ANSWER TO FEAR IS FAITH. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

Faith actually cancels fear.

The recent revelation that America's largest city could be devastated by a hydrogen bomb has brought many thinking leaders to the shocking realization that we have placed too much emphasis on materialism and too much of our security in the hands of failing men. Our serenity and security must have their bedrock in the living God through His Son Jesus Christ.

THE ANSWER TO WORRY IS GOD'S WORD. The fortress against worry is the Word of the living God. Years ago I had a professor who taught me that each day should have in it two great circles, one titled "worry" and the other titled "prayer." Said he, "If you pack your 'prayer' circle full and bank on the promises of the Word of God, your 'worry' circle will be empty."

Is it possible that God, the Holy Ghost, can so indwell us that we are abandoned to His Word—His plan—His purpose—His peace? There is a serenity and placidity of life which I have seen among the silverheads of the old world that our young nation might well emulate.

THE ANSWER TO GUILT IS GRACE. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:1). Bank on the Bible!

I have knelt with governors, millionaires, parliamentarians and even rugged broken men and boys in the rescue missions of our nation. Each one found forgiveness and freedom from guilt in the grace of our blessed Saviour.

These are not pretty platitudes but workable and vital principles of living. God's answer to pressure is Prayer; to fear, is Faith; to worry, God's Word, and to guilt, His amazing Grace.

The Sin We're Afraid To Mention: Avarice

DURING my days of seminary training, I memorized all 58 verses of I Corinthians 15, and it has always been an inspiration to me. But the next verse, I Corinthians 16:1, is the focal point for our straight talking about a real problem of today. I warn you that this may tread on some toes. It is the subject of covetousness.

Do you ever get tired of hearing appeals for funds? So many people say to me, "Mr. Rosell, why are we always bothered about money?" Recently I came across a piece entitled, "Our Church Needs No Money." Here is the way it was supposedly printed in the church bulletin. "We have discovered a way to do our work and carry on without pestering the members for cash contributions. Will you co-operate? If each member will bring a candle to the evening service then we can disconnect the electricity. Each member will take his turn playing the organ. In this way we will not need an organist and music director, (that is, if each one will also direct the choirs and congregational singing). Each member will come to church equipped with a broom and dust cloth to keep his part of the building presentable. In this way a paid janitor will no longer be needed. Those who wish to use water should bring their own bottle. Please, of course, provide your own hymn book and your own music if you sing in the choir. You should be prepared to bring the necessary materials and tools to help remodel and repair the building in between services. In this way we can save some real solid money. Be prepared to spend time in the church office. If you desire a copy of the bulletin, bring your own supplies for its printing. Then call by the church and pick up your copy. This will eliminate the expense of office help and equipment. It is understood, naturally, that each member will take his turn preaching and leading the services. Each one will have to conduct funerals, perform marriages, call on members and prospects, visit the sick, and in general, guide the administration of the church. This will save the church the necessity of a pastor's salary. One must arrange his affairs so that he might spend at least one year as a missionary on some foreign field. This will take away the need for missionary offerings. Thus, we can be known as the church that needs no money."

Do you suppose that this would ever really happen? Would you wish it to be that way? If not, give God ten per cent of your income and very easily arrangements can be made for the rest. You are the one who uses the lights, heat, water, music and ministerial services of the church. So, which shall it be for you: the weekly candle and mop, or the weekly envelope containing your tithe? "It's not what we have that matters, after all, it's what we do with what we have."

Money is a medium of exchange. The Christian takes money which

he cannot keep anyway and exchanges it for that which he can never lose. This is the way by which a Christian can lay up treasures in heaven. How tragic is the lack of interest in giving, on the part of most Christians. We need to come back to the simple, sensible way of giving to God. Following the glorious resurrection chapter fifteen of First Corinthians, we find these words, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor. 16:1, 2). Then Paul adds the thought that when he comes he will approve their work and way by the grace of God. This was the heavy burden upon the heart of the great apostle.

How many hearts today are filled with avarice. It is a sin. We need to learn how to give. God is not a charity patient; He asks no favors; He is no blubbering grandfather that intends to live off the benevolence of our puny hearts. God seeks nothing of a man who does not give with a happy heart of love. Even some preachers act as if they are pulling the "eye tooth of a baby" when they give men the privilege of financially co-operating with God. Others rant and rave for hours to enrich their own coffers with the goods of God's people. This is not right. I would rather be able to appreciate things I cannot have, than to have things I am not able to appreciate.

I know that this is a touchy subject, but it is a sin against God when we do not invest whole-heartedly for Him. Years ago my wife had a friend attend church with her. When the lady saw her put several dollars in the offering plate, she said, "Paper money, why, does anyone ever give more than a dime in the house of God?"

In this day of grace, voluntary, cheerful, generous giving is a real test of our sincerity and love for the Lord. How true the old axiom that we "put our money where our love is." How many Christians will make speeches on prayer meeting night, but there is covetousness within their hearts? Men are greedy with God's gift to them. They rob the Redeemer, God says, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you" (Ephesians 5:3). If evil fathers give good gifts, Christian sons ought at least to give good gifts to God. God says, "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase" (Prov. 3:9).

But someone objects, "That's law, not grace." If a careful Jewish man would tithe, then a generous Gentile ought to outstrip him by far with at least a tenth or double tenth. You say, "If I were rich, I could afford a tithe." It is just as easy for a poor man to give a dime out of a dollar as it is for a rich man to give ten thousand out of a hundred thousand. It is a percentage basis. God will bless you in it. Do you know, if every Christian would tithe of his income

and put God first in his investment pattern, there would be so much money we could reach the last living man on the earth in our generation with the Gospel.

You cannot buy salvation. If you're not born again, these words are not directed to you. But, if you belong to Christ, remember that you owe a debt of love. Only by giving with a heart of liberality, joy, and cheerfulness can you sing. Delight in giving God first place in your investment pattern. If money bothers you, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

MONEY CAN BUY

A bed but not sleep.
Books but not brains.
Food but not appetite.
Finery but not beauty.
A house but not a home.
Medicine but not health.
Luxuries but not culture.
Amusement but not happiness.
A crucifix but not a Saviour.
A church-pew but not heaven.

Why Suffering

THERE is a delicate problem before us today for discussion and study. It is the problem of suffering. Have you asked the question, "Why does God let people suffer?" Yes, this question has been asked by saint and sinner alike. Suffering and more suffering has plagued the earth since the day of Adam's fall. I have seen it true in all areas of the world. This is not a problem to be treated lightly.

It is true that the fundamental cause for suffering is sin. Be careful now. Stay with me. I do not mean that everybody who is sick is a sinner. Let us look at the Biblical answer to suffering. First of all, let us be sure to understand that God does answer prayer to alleviate suffering. Then, there may be a real lack of faith. There is not always a reason for continued suffering. We have the mistaken idea that just because someone is well he has no burdens or heartaches. This is certainly not true. Suffering is not always the result of sin. There is no set rule regarding individual suffering. How many Christian people think that because they have figured out all of the problems for themselves that it will work for everybody else. Let us be extremely careful with people. There are extenuating circumstances, again and again, which change the picture completely.

Now, let us analyze these questions more closely. First, why does God let saints suffer? I once knew a lovely lady in a little town in Minnesota who said to me, "I thank God for my crutches." I said "Why?" She said, "Because they bring people to me so I can witness for my Redeemer." God lets some saints suffer today because of their example for God's testimony. Look at Job, sitting in ashes, scraping his sore boils. Listen to his wife telling him to curse God and die. Hear his foolish adviser. Certainly Job did not suffer because of his sin. God said to Satan, "Hast thou not considered my servant Job? There is none like him in the earth; a perfect and upright man; one who feareth God and escheweth evil." God did not make Job suffer, but he permitted Job to suffer. Job's testimony was, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him."

Some people are always contriving to get out of trouble. God allows us to be tested but He says He will not test us beyond that we are able to bear (I Cor. 10:13). God permits suffering because he wants to test us. Read Paul's account of the shipwreck on the way to Rome. Paul could say through it all, "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ." God permits some to suffer because of their careless Christian living. David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." God has to chasten us.

Let us be certain our suffering is for God's cause and not carelessness because of our sin. "For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently?" (I Peter 2:20). Make certain you do not suffer because of your own ignorance and iniquity. There is coming a great millennial kingdom in which all Christians will share the inheritance of the eternal Son of God. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Rom. 8:17).

It is true that we are God's children by faith whether we are willing to suffer His reproach or not. But we are joint-heirs with Him, "if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." This verse teaches us that we are glorified according to the degree in which we suffer with Him. The Bible also says that if we are ashamed to own Him and His reproach, He also will deny us, being ashamed to own us before the Father. The man who puts off his decision for Christ's gift of salvation until the last hours, has no chance to gain that place of glorious rulership with Christ. This knowledge should be an incentive for our immediate decision to accept Christ's redemption. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (Phil. 1:29).

Many of the best lessons of life are spelled out by tears. The finest china in the world is burned at least three times. "By faith, Moses chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of God greater riches than the pleasures of Egypt, for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Thank God for the privilege of suffering with Christ that we may reign with Him. Victory will come in that day ahead if we suffer with Him now.

He sat by a fire of seven-fold heat,
As He watched by the precious ore,
And closer He bent with a searching gaze
As He heated it more and more.

He knew He had ore that could stand the test,
And He wanted the finest gold
To mold as a crown for the King to wear
Set with gems with a price untold.

And the gold grew brighter and yet more bright,
But our eyes were so dim with tears,
We saw but the fire, not the Master's hand
And questioned with anxious fear.

Can we think that it pleases His loving heart
To cause us a moment's pain?
Ah no, but He saw through the present cost
The bliss of eternal gain.

So He weighed it there with a watchful eye,
With a love that is strong and pure.
And His gold did not suffer a bit more heat
Than was need to make it pure.

What a picture of the Refiner watching the image in pure molten metal of life's suffering, "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7). Sometimes we suffer for testimony; sometimes for chastening; sometimes for rulership; sometimes for spiritual refinement; but make sure you do not suffer for your own sins. Through all your suffering take a look at the Refiner. He loves and chastens you with the gentle care of a loving heavenly Father. And He will bring you forth "as gold."

Unanswered Prayer

NO DOUBT every child of God has faced what is sometimes known as the mystery of unanswered prayer. This has become a very real problem to many of God's children. In purpose and intent they pray, but nothing happens. While seeking the face of God, they storm the throne of grace; yet the answer to their petitions does not come. Many of God's people are discouraged on this point of their Christian lives. They seek an answer to the question: "Why does God not answer prayer?"

Let us first clearly understand that prayer is a privilege of every one of God's children. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself said, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). Again He said, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matt. 7:11). Prayer is a priceless privilege for every blood-bought, Spirit-born member of the Lord's family. Unanswered prayer is not due to a faulty posture, or to poor diction, or to inept eloquence. God is more interested in the posture of the soul than He is in the posture of the body. The Lord is more interested in the culture of the heart than in the culture of the lips.

There are certain laws in the prayer life that must be observed if we are to pray with power. While limitations of space make it impossible to deal with those laws in this message, or even to state those laws in their totality, let us at least consider one law found in John 14:13: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." "That the Father may be glorified in the Son," is the supreme motive in the Christian's prayer life. We ought to pray that God will grant us the answer to our petitions in order that, in turn, His name should be magnified.

In James 4:3, the writer says, "Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." The opening words, "Ye ask and receive not," actually describes the experience of many believers. God points to the reason for it. We have asked and receive not from God, because we fail to ask of God for His glory. Hence, often our chief motive in most prayers is a selfish one. We have no greater goal than the mere satisfaction of the needs of our own lives.

I would urge upon you that whatever you ask of God, you would pray that the Lord shall grant it on the basis that His name be magnified. If you are praying for an unsaved loved one, then get beyond the convenience that his salvation might bring to you. The lives of these who are unsaved basically dishonor God. Let us pray

that God will save them that their transformed lives may bring glory to His Holy name. Many times God would bestow much upon us yet He cannot trust us. We fail to give Him the honor and the glory.

George Mueller was asked to state in sixty seconds how he got things so miraculously from God. He replied, "George Mueller has learned to trust the Father, and the Father is willing to trust George Mueller." Oh, how much we forfeit at the place of prayer because God cannot fully trust us with the answer to our petitions. Let us go beyond selfish motives in our prayer lives.

PRAY MUCH . . . Just talk to God (without fancy phrases) about everything—your troubles, trials, worries, fears, phobias, sorrows, sins, mistakes and tragedies. Be sure to **THANK HIM** for all the blessings, joys, victories and benefits daily.

The Bible says: "**BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING**, but in **EVERYTHING** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God . . . shall . . . keep your hearts and minds . . ." (Philippians 4:6, 7).

LET NOTHING DISCOURAGE YOU! Expect a battle with sin and Satan. Expect temptations and testings. Expect persecutions and misunderstandings. Even Christian friends may disappoint you . . . **BUT GOD WILL NEVER FAIL YOU** (Rom. 8:35-39). The Bible says: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12).

PRAY IN THE MORNING. I don't know why most people pray at night and never before. They are not going to get in much trouble while they are sleeping. Why don't we begin each day with God, asking for power and strength to live the day—just one day at a time—knowing that God can keep us through the day? Then at night we can pause to thank Him for a successful day instead of apologizing for the failure and blunders of the last sixteen hours.

I would like to urge you to do as the Bible says: "Pray without ceasing" and particularly just previous to any special need.

Bathe your daily affairs in prayer. I often urge young people to pray together as they start out on an evening "date." I urge business men to pray before they sign a contract or join a partnership. I ask mothers to pray at the pressure hours of the day. There may be a particularly weak moment each day in your life. Premeditate that moment and prepare yourself with prayer. God will amaze you with his protection and astound you with power and strength to actually live the life of Christ (I Corinthians 10:12-13).

May we seek much from the hand of our God that in turn He shall be magnified and glorified.

The National Program—And You

WE ARE living in a day and age when we have to make decisions. Sometimes these decisions have to do with government, sometimes they have to do with our own franchise. We must decide where we shall go as a nation in the coming years. While I was on a speaking tour in the midwest, Kansas Senator Frank Carlson insisted that I meet President Dwight D. Eisenhower. I was reluctant but the Senator urged me, "If the President's too busy to meet a minister of Jesus Christ, he's just simply too busy," I was told. The meeting was a most cordial one. Because of the privacy of the occasion, I immediately launched into some questions that were close to my heart. I wanted to learn some basic answers to the problems of the hour. You know, a great number of people never bother to find out where we are going, or how the government should be run. Some ask, "What does Christianity have to do with government? What do you care about the political leaders?" I am not only a citizen of heaven, but I am also a citizen of these United States.

I began to ask the President questions. The Senator interrupted the conversation, "Why don't you review some of the statements already issued by Mr. Eisenhower on the subject of faith, Merv?" But the President answered, "I'll be glad to answer Mr. Rosell." Then, cocking his head to the side, and breaking into that wonderful Eisenhower smile, he touched the fingers of his left hand with the forefinger of his right and gave me the finest definition of government I have ever heard. I quote him exactly, "Good government is the translation into practical living of real spiritual faith."

I don't know how you feel about the situation but I believe we have a problem on our hands. Our nation needs to do something about government. We need to pray that God will guide us to this translation into practical living of the real spiritual faith of our churches; the faith of our founding fathers; the faith we have in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I want to state that of course we must keep the church and the state separate. We do not believe any church ought to dominate the government in any fashion or form. But I am quite convinced that when we go to the polls we should make sure that the man we vote for is one of quality, virtue, faith, godliness, and one who knows Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

Some time ago, I was addressing a Rotary Club meeting on this subject. I said, "Gentlemen, I believe in the free enterprise system. Let me take a block," and I had a block used on television titled, "Enterprise." I said, "I believe with all my heart in the free enterprise system. This system cannot long survive unless underneath it we put another block. This block I have titled 'Democracy.' I do not

believe a man works for the state but that the state has to be the servant of the man. I believe that democracy was the teaching of Jesus Christ, for He continually spoke of the significance of the individual."

Joshua says, "I have given you a land for which you did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord" (Joshua 24:13-14). We cannot be the servants of the government; we must be the servants of God. I had the artist for a television program arrange a third block which we titled "Americanism." Americanism is the very bedrock and the foundation of our government: the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, etc.

I think, in a time of peace, when we use the franchise, we ought to wave the flag of patriotism. But there surely has to be another block. I had printed on the fourth block the one simple word, "Christianity." We know that enterprise will not hold up without democracy; democracy will not hold up without Americanism; Americanism will not hold up without a sure foundation of Christianity. Some wonder why I introduced religion into this kind of an address. Without the great teachings of Jesus Christ woven into the warp and woof of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, and fervently believed by our earliest forefathers, today we would have nothing but the theses of men. But these great documents were literally impregnated with the great truths of the living God. Read your Bible. Open the book of the living God in this hour and see again what Christ actually says. He is the One who declared, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11: 25-26). This is our privilege, the pursuit of happiness, the right of faith, hope, worship, freedom and liberty, all of which have their foundation in the Bible. Of course, underneath Christianity there must be one more foundation. Christianity is not a set of creeds. We have to delineate doctrine carefully. We must know what we believe concerning Christ: the virgin birth, the blood atonement, the resurrection, the hope of everlasting life, the ascension, the intercession of Jesus Christ at the right hand of God, and the second coming. But Christianity, more than creeds, it is a Person. What have you done with this Person?

The problem of how you decide for our great nation depends upon what you have done with the precepts, principles and Person of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Do you want liberty? Then find Jesus Christ as Saviour from sin. This is freedom which is more than a piece of paper. The Bible says, "The fear of man bringeth a snare, but the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Take a moment right now to think this through. When you know Christ, when He lives within you, then your decisions are right; your life is right; your city is right; your country and state are right; your government is right. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Think right, believe right, vote right, do right, live right, and you will be glad you did.

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